

**Every drop of
HP sauce
is precious!**

BLACK OUT

LONDON

5.37 p.m.—8.36 a.m.

PLYMOUTH

5.31 p.m.—8.47 a.m.

BIRMINGHAM

5.31 p.m.—8.49 a.m.

(Supplied by Auto-
mobile Association)No. 3244 63rd Year
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1944

OVER 3,000,000 CERTIFIED SALE

[Registered at the G.P.O.
as a Newspaper]

2D.

Cleans
Kitchen
Utensils easily

ONE-O-ONE

From Doctors and Glasses
Use sparingly: supplies are restricted

Red Army Captures 300 More Localities

In Major Drive To The Dniester: Only 25 Miles Now To Polish Frontier

ITALY'S BOLD BID TO TRAP 5 GERMAN DIVISIONS

BY OUR MILITARY COMMENTATOR

MARSHAL STALIN is chasing big game—50 German divisions still left in the Dnieper Bend. Last night's news indicated that General Vatutin's victorious First Ukrainian Army has by-passed the key hedgehog town of Berdichev and has switched its main attack to the south-east, with the Bug and the Dniester as its objectives.

This great strategic change suggests that Vatutin is going to try to envelop the great Dnieper Bend from the west, out of the 750,000 Germans there and deal to the Wehrmacht the most disastrous blow in its history.

Last night's Moscow communiqué, announcing another advance towards Vinitsa, and the capture of Samgorodok, 15 miles south of Kazatin, strengthens the view that Stalin is going all out for the kill. Samgorodok is about 24 miles north-east of Vinitsa, key rail town on the Bug.

More Than 300 Localities Captured

To the north, the Red Army, according to the communiqué, is now only 25 miles from the old Polish border, having captured Belokorotiv, rail junction 30 miles north-west of Korosten.

But the fact that the Russians yesterday captured more than 300 localities on the 1st Ukrainian front, is proof that the main weight of the Red Army offensive is directed towards springing the Dnieper Bend trap.

The communiqué stated:

On January 1, 1944, west and north-west of Nevel Soviet troops advanced in fighting and occupied 28 localities.

Troops of the 1st Ukrainian Army Group continued to develop the offensive occupying the district centre of the Zhitomir region, BAROSHI; the district centre of the Vinitsa region, SAMOGORODOK; the district centres of the Kiev region, VODOHARNA and GREBENKI; the railway terminus, YELOKORONICH and POKROVISHCHYE; and over 300 other localities, including railway stations KREMA, YABLONETZ, GLUKHOVTSY.

On other sectors of the front the day was marked by patrol activity, artillery and mortar fire exchange. On December 31, our front Soviet troops destroyed or disabled 78 German tanks. Eight German planes were shot down in aerial engagements and by A.A. fire.

Pogrebische lies 55 miles south-east of Zhitomir and 80 miles south-west of Kiev. The railway station is on the line running south-east from Vinitsa to the Dnieper Basin. Vinitsa is about 20 miles south-west of Berdichev and about 18 miles south of recently captured Skvira. This means that Skvira railway is completely outflanked.

Last Bastion

Berdichev is important as one of the last few localities remaining to the Germans before the Polish frontier. But the Nazis, despite the outthrusting movement to the north-east, will not yield it without a bitter struggle, in which the reason Stalin has probably decided to try to spring the Dnieper Bend trap is the isolation of 30 fully equipped divisions.

The circumstances now are more favourable for the Soviet than they have been for years. West of Zhitomir the enemy is in full retreat, abandoning arms and food stores.

If Manteuffel has concentrated reserves around Berdichev in an attempt to stem the Red Army's advance on the other side, Vatutin's attack will sound. Unless the Germans halt his drive, nearly all the enemy force in the Ukraine will be at the mercy of the Russians, and Hitler will suffer a disaster from which he cannot possibly recover.

In the Skvira-Kazatin sector, where the Russians have launched their thrust to the south-east, the Red Army's break-through has been so deep that it is in a position to strike, too, at vital German strong points from which the enemy has been driven.

So swift is the Soviet advance here that the Red Army already within 10 miles of the great Odessa-Cracow-Berlin trunk railway, main lifeline of the German Southern armies from their home bases.

(Continued in Back Page)



They "Will Be Needed Soon"

'Stay And Resist' Call To French

THE French Committee of National Liberation last night broadcast from Algiers Radio these instructions of the Resistance Movement to members of the Movement inside France: "Discontinue your efforts to go abroad, stay in France. Do not leave the country. Do not weaken the effectiveness of the front inside France."

"We say to you, men and women of the resistance movement in Metropolitan France, soon your full strength will be called upon inside the country to support forthcoming operations."

"To workers and prisoners of war in Germany we say: Go on with your efforts to escape to France. Prisoners of war, organize among yourselves the machinery for mass escapes to France when the right moment comes, when the German retreat reaches Poland."

"Secure arms and papers from the German army. Prisoners in Poland, make your arrangements to escape to France. Prisoners of war, organize among yourselves the machinery for mass escapes to France when the right moment comes, when the German retreat reaches Poland."

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"The Allies' armies, supported by the armies of liberation in bringing early freedom to France. Act in unison and thereby help the armies of liberation in bringing early freedom to France."

"The Red Army in White Russia has 15,000 killed and 1,500 prisoners."

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POT STIRS IN THE BALKANS

Hush Trip By King Peter

From DENIS MARTIN, Reuter's Special Correspondent, Cairo, Saturday.

KING PETER OF JUGOSLAVIA has left Cairo for a "secret destination."

Nothing is known about the purpose of his mission, but Balkan observers in Cairo think that his absence foreshadows a rapid development towards a settlement of the problems before the Royal Yugoslav Government.

Members of Peter's Government do not conceal their anxiety over the political events in the near future.

They say that the talks yesterday between Dr. Antich, Yugoslav Prime Minister, and Dr. Benes, Czech leader, were almost entirely devoted to matters affecting the future of the Balkan States.

Significance is given to the fact that the Dr. Benes had just arrived from Moscow.

INTERMENT
FOR 164 HUNS

THE Brestann Government Information Bureau announced yesterday that 164 German naval personnel picked up in the Atlantic by the crew of the Irish ship Kerlogue have been landed at Queenstown.

It is understood that the men will be interned.

They are probably survivors of the crews of the three German destroyers sunk in the Bay of Biscay last week.

When the cruisers Glasgow and Enterprise sank the German destroyers it was a running fight, and there was no time to pick up survivors.

The Kerlogue is a small steamer owned by the Westford Steamship Company.

Rebel
Chief's Call To
Greeks

FOLLOWING the radio appeal of the United States Greek Committee to the Greek Government to pledge determination to continue warfare co-operation in the days of peace, says Reuter.

"We are on the offensive. The walls are closing in remorselessly on our enemies. They are gathering now and greater assaults which will bring about the downfall of the Axis aggressors."

"The United States Greek Committee is giving attention also to a different kind of struggle which must follow the military phases—the struggle against disease, malnutrition, unemployment, and many other forms of economic and social distress."

"To make all of us secure against future aggression and to open the path for the enhanced well-being of nations and individuals everywhere, we must maintain in the peace to come the mutual beneficial co-operation we have achieved in the days of war."

"As we look towards the tremendous tasks ahead, let us pledge ourselves that this co-operation shall continue both for winning the final victory in the battlefield and for establishing an international organization of all peace-loving nations to maintain peace and security in the generations to come."

A statement issued last night by President Roosevelt's health states that his temperature is normal, but he is still confined to bed.

WHEN THE BIG OFFENSIVES START:

Liberites Can't Stay The Course

Washington, Saturday.

GERMAN-DOMINATED Europe is now producing war materials adequate to a prolonged war of defence against Allied offensives of the present size, according to an analysis of the German and Japanese war potential issued by the U.S. Foreign Economic Administration.

The analysis finds that:—

1. While economic strains will doubtless contribute to German political and military deterioration in the year, these in themselves will not be sufficiently serious to cause a German collapse.

2. German economy, however, cannot possibly be expanded to meet the increasing strength and pressure of the United Nations' offensives in 1944.

3. Japan has passed the peak of her industrial factory expansion, but can increase the production of armaments for defence in 1944.

4. Shipping remains the chief economic weakness which prevents Japan from fully exploiting conquered territories.

The report was prepared by Mr. William T. Tovey, Director of the Eastern Front, who in the course of it said the advance of the Red Army in East Europe, the Allied bomber offensive in the West, and the pressure of the Axis in the Mediterranean have done little to their effects on the economy of Germany and Japan.

The Axis need for huge quantities of munitions and supplies in the Eastern Front, as well as in Italy and Yugoslavia, has severely stretched Germany's war economy and made it extremely sensitive to every instance of industrial curtailment in Britain and American bombing.

In 1944 several factors will tend to check Axis war production. Shortages of material, such as oil and rubber, may become critical, and the manpower shortage may be exacerbated by the further recruitment of foreign labor without the necessary rise in a dangerous political situation.

Economic strains will be intensified and increasing disruption of Axis industries may be caused by the increased Allied land, air and sea offensives from all points of the compass.

HOUSING POSITION BAD

Germany itself is in relatively better shape than the rest of Axis Europe, but consumer goods are scarce and bombing has worsened an already bad housing and utility situation.

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Let's talk over

FOR the United Nations the Old Year has died in a place of triumph; for Germany the New Year skies are lurid with the smoke and flame of burning cities and heavy with the roaring thunder of Russian guns. Twelve months ago we had come to the end of the beginning. Today we are certainly approaching the end of the end. For the Allies' invasion plans are complete and their commanders are named. Zero hour may be close at hand.

How close it is useless for us to guess. The Germans have put out all sorts of stories intended to draw comment or reply. The latest is that the great invasion will be launched within a fortnight.

The few remaining neutrals are making forecasts too. But none of them know—none of them know—the secret of the timetable which was agreed upon at Tehran.

There are probably fewer than a score of men in all the world who know that secret. All that we ordinary people can count upon with confidence is that the grand assault upon Hitler's European fortress will begin within the next 90 days.

And when it does begin, we shall have to back up the effort of our fighting men to the utmost limit of our individual powers.

THE British Army on the one hand and the British and American naval and air forces on the other have struck mighty blows during the past week. The British have won a great victory in the air, and the American army, armed strength, but also at his people's morale.

German propaganda did not attempt to conceal the sense of loss which was felt throughout the Reich when the Scharnhorst was sunk. For this battleship was the most dangerous remaining unit of the German navy.

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"Man o' The People" Writes

on "Things That Matter To You and Me"

make so mighty an effort. Whether they can stem the great flood of refugees and whether they can successfully evacuate their large forces of men, ships and essential supplies.

But this was not all. A year ago the German High Command was at its perilous height and the Allies were sustaining grievous losses of men, ships and essential supplies.

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ing the assembly lines like so many mass-produced cars.

Total Axis production was far surpassed, until today we can darken the sky with our bombers and fighters, attacking him both by day and night, laying his principal cities in ruins and crippling his already overstrained productive machinery.

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with serious setbacks. Certainly all our resources will be strained to the limit, and probably our still dangerous enemy will strike back at us with everything he has got.

His "secret weapon" may then be brought into play. It is foolish to dismiss his boasts as empty words, and our authorities do not do so. But we should be aware of the fact that we can certainly "take it" in 1944, and we can certainly "take it" in 1945.

On the other hand, the total collapse of the enemy may be much nearer and much more easily brought about than is commonly supposed.

In any case, our opportunity during the New Year is to show our minds not only to "carry on," but also to put on a final burst of energy.

This is a people's war. Let's go to it and win it right.

Assuming that Germany will be forced to unconditional surrender some time in 1944; what are our prospects for the future?

This is a question which all thinking people are asking. The answer is not simple, but it is not impossible to give a rough outline.

For there is no doubt at all that the world is now in a state of great confusion. The old order is being destroyed, and a new order is being born.

We mean to provide work for the masses of men who want it, homes for everybody, and food for the whole population.

It may be so. But 1943, besides bringing us the great military advantages here discussed, has also witnessed an astonishing technical and scientific progress.

We have made great strides toward the conquest of disease. Penicillin and insulin stand as decisive battles in the history of mankind.

And our modern warfare against his microscopic enemies.

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THE ROYAL NAVY—HERE'S TO ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS AND STILL GREATER TRIUMPHS IN THE VICTORY YEAR OF 1944!

Dr. Dietrich Hider's personal Press chief, is making strong bid to oust Goebbels, whose propaganda, he claims, is ineffectual at home and abroad.

Chaos in German food distribution has led to near-starvation in many parts of the Reich. Ukrainian harvest contributes to difficulties.

Four Austrian battalions with their officers detailed to strongholds in the Balkans, are being sent to the East to fight against the Russian army.

German doctors are reported to be treating a large number of nervous disease which has gripped thousands in Berlin and other heavily bombed cities.

Professor Pott, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Berlin, is believed to have been involved in the sabotage of Hitler.

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SECRET SERVICE NEWS

INVASION KEY-POINTS ON CONTINENTAL COAST NOW MANNED BY SS. NAZI BARRIERS. ON ADVICE OF KOMMEL, WHO NOW FREQUENTLY WEARS SS. UNIFORM.

Swedish army is in state of readiness to move into Germany from German suggesting Hitler may plan desperate coup to establish link with Norway across Sweden.

Democratization of Spain, on which Franco tries to work, result of recent diplomatic exchanges between Hitler, Spain, Germany and Allied leaders.

Chaos in German food distribution has led to near-starvation in many parts of the Reich. Ukrainian harvest contributes to difficulties.

Four Austrian battalions with their officers detailed to strongholds in the Balkans, are being sent to the East to fight against the Russian army.

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This May Be War's Decisive Battle

THE present battle (on the Eastern Front) may well prove the decisive one of the war. The situation is so fraught with menace for the Germans that the REAL Russian offensive on a scale unprecedented in war's history may begin.

RUSSIANS PREPARED FOR THE REAL OFFENSIVE

There are still in this country cautious observers who maintain that Germany will not be defeated until 1945. They base their opinion on two beliefs: One, that the power of Germany to fight is greater than it has been under-estimated; and, two, that Allied resources are not yet great enough to ensure a comparatively speedy knock-out on the Continent.

This pessimistic outlook cannot be justified. Germany is already fighting and losing a costly defensive war in Russia—a land campaign which may so rapidly develop in favour of the Red Army that only remnants of a thoroughly demoralized Reichswehr may survive to oppose Anglo-American invasion moves.

Stalin's latest drive in the Kiev campaign, possibly the greatest triumph in his successful career, points again to the possibility of German High Command defeat.

Two months ago it decided to issue an issue in the Ukraine, it was hoped to smash through the Kiev bulge, turn the tables on the Germans, establish a winter line, and gain a respite whereby the Red Army could rest, re-equip, and re-organize.

Under the force of Mantel's powerful counter-thrusts the Red Army yielded a considerable amount of ground and several key cities. The German generals may have been deluded into the hope that they could still get the breathing space they so sorely needed.

Apparently they have yet a full year to realize either Stalin's thesis or the military resources of Russia.

When the possibility of disengagement or organized retreat by the Germans had almost vanished, General Vatutin's attack with a fury which astounded the Nazis.

In six days the Russians not only recaptured the ground that they had lost, but also advanced in many weeks of costly fighting. They drove on beyond the front line reached in the November advance.

Once again the German generals are paying the penalty of grave miscalculation. They failed to hold Zhitomir, one of Vatutin's immediate objectives, and they cannot hope to hold that still the most important strategic point.

The nature of the Russian break-through in the Kiev campaign is so overwhelming that Hitler's Fourth Army, already badly battered by the tremendous burden it has borne in the Salient, may, possibly, prove an ineffective barrier to the Russian tide.

Once the Germans are flung out of Berdichev, Stalin may make a final effort to drive through to the Bug and the Dniester.

Yet despite the pessimists, there is little doubt that if Anglo-American resources are not present equal to the task ahead, the odds are mounting at a speed which even two years ago would have seemed impossible.

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACT OF UNION for the Common Good

Two great building societies—The Abbey Road and the National—have united. The immense resources of the newly formed Abbey National Building Society are pledged to the service of those millions who, when peace comes again, will wish to build their new lives on the old sure foundations of home ownership.

ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY

Joint Managing Directors: Sir Harold Reuben, W. A. C. C. Sir Harold Reuben, W. A. C. C.

Head Office: Abbey House, 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4

Branch Office: 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4

Large Resources Available to Assist Home Ownership

CH-1

A golden rule

To avoid overtiredness

Sleep should refresh you—but if you have any tendency to miss a good night's sleep, the golden rule is to take a dose of Beecham's Pills.

They are the perfect laxative for Beecham's Pills. They are gentle and natural in effect. Always reliable—and never fail. For one hundred years the wonderful reliability of Beecham's Pills has justified the trust of millions of people. So get some today—and look after yourself!

Take Beecham's PILLS

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX

CH-1

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY!



Defeat is the expression on the face of this German soldier captured when the Canadians of the Eighth Army forced the More river crossing.

15-Year-Old Child's Middle-Aged Husband

Saskatoon, Sask., Saturday.

REVELATIONS of a fifteen-year-old Saskatoon girl who had been married to a middle-aged husband, showed that a modern set of morals, who had been married to a "man of God," is growing at the rate of modern mothers a day.

The girl, blonde, dark-eyed Irene Wilson, admitted that she had married John Zent, about 35, who she knew that he was already married.

Wilson said to say with whom she had discussed her marriage with her mother, who had not been told of the marriage, but admitted that the man's wife had been told of the marriage.

Wilson, a seventeen-year-old, who was accused with her relative of "enticing and compelling the girl to marry into a household," also believes in polygamy.

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CENTURIES-OLD CAMEL TRACK NOW ARMS HIGHWAY TO RUSSIA

800-Mile Supply Road Built in 8 Months

FOR 800 miles, across mountains and desert, a great new road, built by a pick-and-shovel army of 30,000 men, women and children, stretches from India to southern Russia.

Little more than a year ago it was only a caravan way. Now lorries from India rumble along the broad motor highway with war supplies for Stalin's armies.

It is called the East Persia route.

Captain C. W. R. Corfield, of Western-terrace, Falmouth, young officer of the Royal Engineers, who was one of the first down British officers who supervised the building of the road, revealed some of its secret yesterday.

In place of the rough track trodden into the sand by the feet of camels, the broad motor highway has been made by thousands of peasant workmen, for no machinery was available.

THREE MILES A DAY Construction of the route was completed in eight months, an average of three miles a day. It was a rush job necessitated by the German advance on the Caucasus.

River beds were paved, drains laid, and bridges were built. Water and food for men and beasts were taken hundreds of miles by camel as the road was pushed forward.

"We recruited the workmen from the towns and villages," said Capt. Corfield, who is now in Delhi.

In spite of all the odd nationalities and the widely differing engineering practices of the four foreign contracting firms, everyone got along fine.

We had Greeks, Japanese, Bulgarians, Russians, Turks, Italians, Bulgarians and Romanians, but no mention the Persians who did most of the labouring.

"During the winter one of our greatest difficulties was getting the labourers to work because the temperature reached 100 degrees, which made us stop for a few days in the shade of a biter north of work was blowing all the time."

In the summer the temperature reached 100 degrees, which made us stop for a few days in the shade of a biter north of work was blowing all the time."

The road is complementary to the West Persia route for British supplies, and it is a most important link in the late summer.

GRAFT AND PROFITEERING The quantity of supplies—jute, rubber, stainless steel, tin and tins—was so great that it was impossible to find a firm to handle the transport facilities available.

It was an Indian representative of one of the supply organisations, who said that the road was so wide and houses had to be built to fulfil the contracts that the Indian should not have more than a four-mile walk to his work.

Moreover, more than £400 was paid for an urgently needed tyre and £40 for a car battery.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES the Ministry appeals confidently to the public to redouble their efforts and to co-operate with the Ministry in effecting this essential economy.

CASEY SAID "I'M PLAIN 'MISTER'"

"The People" learned in London yesterday that it is at his own wish that Mr. Richard Casey, Governor-Designate of Bengal, will go to Calcutta as "Mr. Plain 'Mister'."

It is probably unprecedented for the Governor-Designate to take office as plain "Mister."

The normal tradition is that Governors of the three Indian Presidencies are made Knights, and the Governor of Bengal is made a Baron.

His Commission of Honour conferred by the Queen and the Honours List, thus caused some comment in London circles.

More RAF Officers Fly, Thanks To 'Ma'am'

DURING 1943 the W.A.A.F. has taken on duties of greater responsibility than ever before, and there has been a marked increase in the substitution of RAF by W.A.A.F. officers—the "ma'am's"—and airwomen, which has meant the release of an additional number of men for flying duties or service overseas.

There are now about 4,000 W.A.A.F. officers who have taken the place of RAF officers, says the Air Ministry News Service, which has an increase of 700 during 1943.

Over 300 hold responsible staff appointments at the Air Ministry. The service meteorological officers in flying squadrons are now almost 100 per cent. W.A.A.F.

Shorthand 600 W.A.A.F. officers employed on code and cryptic messages, signals, catering and RAF administration duties are now in Italy, Middle East, North Africa, Canada, A.S., West Indies, Bermuda and on Admiral Mountbatten's staff in India.

Statistics show that at least 95 per cent. of the airwomen are directly replacing airmen and 70 per cent. of them are in skilled trades.

Try your friends the only way to be sure of obtaining

The People

every Sunday is to place a regular order with your newspaper. Do this now!

A POINT HE FORGOT TO REMEMBER

Wives (in Court): I CAUGHT my husband kissing their assistant, and he tried to laugh it off by saying that was all he could get at the shop without points.

Although I'm not exactly a saint, I've forgiven my husband several times over.

I don't believe in paying on a man, but I just keep close about my husband.

I can't understand my husband. He blames all his funny little ways to Mr. Heredity.

And husbands: I LIKE a lot of other women demand that their husbands should be a little more of an artificial blonde.

My wife is one of those who is a little more of an artificial blonde.

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Deaf And Dumb Timekeeper With Faulty Watch

FOR attempting to obtain sixpence by false pretences from his employer, Herbert Winchcombe, a salaried Colleague-Bromley, was fined £2 at Bromley yesterday.

It was stated that he made a time-sheet claiming that he had worked up to 5 p.m. on war damage repairs, where, in fact, he employed men going away from his job at 4.45 p.m.

Winchcombe's explanation was that only one of his five workmates had a watch, and it was broken. In the end, the possessor was deaf and dumb.

PLENTY OF "SCOTCH" IN U.S.

New York, Saturday.

YOU may not be able to obtain all the spirits you want in Britain, but there is no shortage in New York.

Reverse Lease-Lend, as applied to liquor, means that the New Yorker is able to walk into a hotel or bar and order well-known brands of Scotch whiskeys.

British bottled ales and stout are also on sale at half-a-crown a pint.

Thanks to Lend-Lease in reverse it is also possible to take one's choice of British luxury goods in New York shops.

Dealers report record sales lists. Most popular articles are tweeds from Scotland, hatters and muffers from Saville, and cigarette lighters bearing the names of famous British firms.

There are also in great demand—such as British-processed tobacco, some of which, ironically, is rationed to the wholesalers—Reiter.

The popularity of British goods extends to the field of cosmetics. According to one druggist, the demand is so great that items like eau de Cologne and toilet water are rationed to the wholesalers—Reiter.

£5,000 WEST END HAUL. Thieves who broke into the premises of B. Davis and Co. in Albemarle-st., stole a safe containing about £5,000 in notes.

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIGHT OPENING OF BRITISH RESTAURANTS

MORE British Restaurants may be allowed to remain open at night to meet the growing demand for workers on late shifts and members of the Forces.

Already a few have arranged late services in such centres as Plymouth, Manchester and Bath.

"We are in favour of British Restaurants remaining open at night. If there is the call for a move," a Food Ministry official said yesterday.

But such a move would be a sufficient number of would-be customers to justify the step.

The decision, it was said, must rest with the local authorities who run the restaurants."

Please leave Horlicks for those who need most

ONE reason why Horlicks is scarce is that it is included in the economy rationing supplied to sailors and army, who may have to live for many days without normal supplies of food.

Horlicks also goes to hospitals, to certain war factories, and to miners. Nevertheless, some Horlicks is still being supplied to the shops. Please leave it for those who need it most. And make Horlicks by mixing it with water. The milk is already in it.

HORLICKS

BISCUITS for energy

CH-1

Wives (in Court): I CAUGHT my husband kissing their assistant, and he tried to laugh it off by saying that was all he could get at the shop without points.

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Despatch Riders In Crisis

They are a new volunteer despatch rider force trained for use in emergency by police motor-cyclists. They will be used in case of breakdowns in communications between Government Departments.

Their average age is twenty, and they are drawn from all branches of Government service. The girls were inspected by Sir William Brereton, Minister of Home Security.

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BATTLE-DRESS GIRLS READY

GIRL motor-cyclists attired in bottle-green battle-dress, crash helmets and orange-coloured gaiters, paraded at Wellington Barracks, London, yesterday.

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Invasion Means Less Coal

FRANK warning that coming invasion operations may affect the nation's coal supply is given by the Ministry of Fuel and Power in an appeal to heads of industrial concerns.

Demands for coal for operational purposes are increasing, says the Ministry, and the beginning of these operations may interrupt the normal processes of the output.

If industrial concerns, faced with the 10 per cent. cut imposed on December 12, try to make it good by depleting stocks in hand, there is

Bandsmen Heroes With Tommy-Guns

HAND-TO-HAND BATTLE FOR AIRFIELD

Japs Are Warned

New York, Saturday.

A GERMAN NEWS Agency dispatch, quoted by the Office of War Information, said that Tokyo newspapers have warned the Japanese that the United States is massing huge air and sea invasion forces in Alaska and Aleutian bases, and that the American air force in China had made Japan its main objective.—A.P.

Continued from Page One

STALIN'S BD TO TRAP 50 DIVISIONS

Enemy counter-attacks to save vital communications were reported by Moscow Radio yesterday to be unsuccessful at all points. By Friday, the German line was broken. When the towns fall, the way will be open for a Russian drive clean through to the Polish and Rumanian frontiers.

Along a 600-mile front the German lines were being broken by Soviet tanks and heavy armor. In several places German divisions have been trapped and liquidated.

Streams of enemy prisoners were moving toward the Russian rear yesterday from the battle areas west and south-west of Kiev.

Hundreds of miles to the north, German troops are closing on Vitebsk, fortress city at the north of the German White Russian line, following new advances under cover of darkness.

East, north and north-west of the city Red Army battle groups are wedged into the German positions and are slowly forcing them to the great battle line.

Fall of Vitebsk will open the way for Soviet drives north-west on Polotsk and the Dvina river, or for an advance west to outflank southern bases of the German White Russian line.

BEGGAR WITH £39
Fined £5 at Bost. yesterday for begging. Thomas Wolfe, 21, film extra, Craven St., Strand, was stated to have had £39 on him when arrested.

ADVERTISEMENTS

RESOLUTIONS

1944

If you're short of Good Resolutions pick some of these!

I resolve to . . .

—cut out and keep "Food Facts" as a guide for reference.

—try out one new dish each week, Say Fish, for instance.

—take advantage of all my ration allowances, not forgetting Dried Eggs and Household Milk.

—plan my cooking to save fuel, using oven or hot-plate for the whole meal, but not both.

—keep the outside of pots and pans as clean as the insides. A film of dirt stops heat getting through and thus wastes fuel.

—plan meals for the week to save journeys to the shops and to relieve shopping congestion.

—have every crumb and crust of bread, making stale bread into porridge or breakfast cereal.

—save every drop of milk, rinsing out milk bottles with a little cold water to use in cooking.

—preserve all the vitamins in green vegetables by cooking them quickly with the lid on the pot and the minimum of boiling water.

—trim fat from the joint before roasting and melt it down to use for cooking fat.

FOOD FACTS

THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, LONDON, W.1. FOOD FACTS No. 181

THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH 1944 (December 15th to January 1st)

The wife of a French prisoner of war, she gathered together the first recruits to the Communist group of the French underground movement when France fell.

Unobtainable she left her home, her old mother, her two sisters and her profession—she was a dental surgeon—to save France.

But the Vichy police were on her heels and she was trapped and handed over to the Gestapo in March 1942.

She was kept for months in France and tortured by the Ger-

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From JAMES HENRY

Allied Headquarters, S.W. Pacific, Saturday.

NEW Britain is the only place where you can be up to your waist in mud and still get dust in your eyes—that is the grim joke.

Members of a crack Marine band discarded their instruments for Tommy-guns in the battle that preceded the capture of the airfield.

A corporal machine-gunner and another man manned a machine-gun when the Japanese made a bayonet attack in the dark.

A Japanese captain who survived the Marines' hail of lead tried to stab the second American, but the corporal seized him by the neck and choked him with his hands.

As in earlier attacks, the Japanese tried to fool the Marines by shouting in English, but they were invariably caught out through their inability to pronounce the letter "r".

In two days a Marine infantry battalion captured ten Japanese supply dumps containing ammunition, clothing, matches, cigarettes, rations, food and medical supplies.

While their own supply lines were being kept open, the Marines for the next three days smoked Japanese cigarettes, ate Japanese food, heated by Japanese fuel, and wore Japanese socks and shirts—and wiped the dirt from their arms with captured Japanese handkerchiefs.

The same battalion, which won a presidential citation for its part in the capture of the airfield, drove off five Japanese counter-attacks in three days, killing 600 Japanese.

PLANES BUSY

A command Marine campaigner captured Target Hill, key to the defense of the island, in a spectacular three-hour plunge through swamps, jungles, and a heavily fortified beach.

So swift was the advance that the Japanese were taken by surprise and their own guns threatened by the Marines.

Latest official news from Cape Gloucester is that the Marines captured the beach and were working in close support of the ground forces, bombing and strafing Japanese positions along the coast.

In the Arwae area, some of the first American landing on New Britain, the Marines have been chasing the last Japanese.

The Hiten peninsula in New Guinea, the Japanese spearheads are in contact with the Japanese.

Allied medium and heavy bombers dropped a weight of bombs on the Japanese positions in the important Madang area north-west of the Hiten peninsula.

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Stalingrad Built 1,000 Blocks Of Flats In Year

OVER 10,000 dwellings have been built in Stalingrad since it was liberated less than a year ago, said Moscow Radio yesterday.

About 1,000 blocks of flats have also been built.

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Washing Day In Africa
A canvas "bowl" is all that this nursing sister has in which to do her "small" while serving in North Africa.

Germany will collapse in spring if raids keep on and Second Front opens.—ZURICH.

German public will rise in revolt and Hitler will vanish.—STOCKHOLM.

Nazis will try to hold on for a year to squeeze better peace terms from Allies.—ANKARA.

Over In 1944 If We Strike Hard

As the New Year came in, the British United Press and other correspondents in Europe: "How long do you think Germany can last—and why?" Here are their answers:

ZURICH: I believe Germany will collapse early this spring.

provided the Russians continue their advance, the Allied air forces continue their raids, and the Second Front materials.

Organized opposition to the Nazi regime is impossible and only a resounding military defeat is likely to produce an internal collapse.

The ordinary German man-in-the-street is not aware of the real situation, especially on the Russian front. That means that only air raids really affect the civilian population.

STOCKHOLM: Germany should collapse by November, provided a series of invasion thrusts this spring prove successful.

The German will give in if the "Junker generals" realize it is impossible to prevent the invasion of Germany.

MASS STRIKES

This is my prediction of what will follow them.

Some anti-Nazi generals will ask for an armistice, and the people in the big German cities whose moral and physical resistance is broken by continuing air raids will rise up and wipe out the local Nazis.

Hitler and his regime will be killed, commit suicide, or, still more likely, just vanish.

One word of warning: Military defeat must come first. Only after that will there be an internal collapse. Air raids alone won't do it.

ANKARA: The Nazis know they have lost the war but think they can hold on for another year and squeeze better terms out of a weary world.

GERMANS TOUGHER

LONDON: There are reports that the German today is in a tougher frame of mind than he was before.

He is beginning to think that the war will be a long one, and that the consequences of total defeat might be worse than any amount of fighting would be worth while to avoid it.

STOCKHOLM: Saturday.

Exports from the U.S. in 1943 will be the largest in history, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

Exports for the first 11 months of the year was \$2,853,542,500, including lend-lease shipments to the United Nations but excluding shipments to Axis and neutral countries.

This was an increase of 50 percent above the corresponding period in 1942.—Reuter.

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